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September 25, 1995

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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: INFORMAL COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF APPLE PETITION RM-8653

Dear Sir,

I am a registered voter residing in rural Mississippi. I have not yet subscribed to any electronic bulletin board service. I plan to leave my modem idle until I, too, can enjoy the economical telecommunication services now afforded citizens residing in metropolitan areas. Your current proceedings are of special interest because:

1. My local television broadcasters are affiliates of ABC, CBS, & NBC. I do not receive the Fox Network.
2. I live beyond the bounds of a cable franchise.
3. I have in early August, 1995 written to the management of the local telephone monopoly as well as my Public Service Commissioner expressing my dissatisfaction with regard to both the cost and maintenance of the telephone service provided me.

Beset by the frustrations listed above, I voice my strong opposition to the WINForum RM-8648 petition, which, I understand, is endorsed by A.T. & T. and others in the telecommunications industry. I fear that these people, with profit motives solely in mind, might seek to further exploit my plight.

I would like to voice my strong support for the Apple RM-8653 petition in which my concerns, as a rural resident of the State of Mississippi, are addressed. To be specific I cite pertinent excerpts from the body of Apple's petition as follows:

* Licensed wireless services will not be available throughout the country in the near term, or, in some cases, at all. As a result, users in rural and other areas will be left far behind unless unlicensed wireless technologies are permitted to develop.

* Licensed wireless services will impose airtime charges that will be prohibitively expensive for some users and some types of uses. As a result, many individuals, schools, libraries, hospitals, government entities, and non-profit institutions with high usage requirements (either in terms of time on the network or the bandwidth required), or "marginal" applications, will be left unserved.

* Flexibility: Because users do not have to obtain licenses, engage infrequency coordination, or hard wire networks, they can communicate on an ad hoc basis or, where a more permanent network is desired, they can quickly, easily, and relatively inexpensively design, deploy and reconfigure a network suited to their individual needs. This could be as simple as one computer capable of connecting to the Internet via a wireless modem, or as expensive as a high-bandwidth, community-wide network linking all the schools in a district with the local library system, with local government buildings, or with the broader telecommunications infrastructure.

INFORMAL COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF APPLE PETITION RM-8653 (continued)
Pertinent excerpts from petition (continued)

* Equalizing opportunities for rural users: With traditional wired and licensed-wireless networks, users must wait for a service provider to install a network in their area. With unlicensed spectrum, an individual school, school district, university, library system, or hospital could install its own "network" -- one designed to meet its particular needs. This option will be particularly important for entities in rural areas, who may not see advanced networks being built in their areas in the near future, or at all.

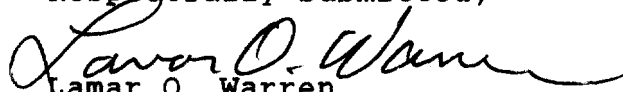
* Promoting opportunities for private-public cooperation. Many companies have demonstrated their interest in helping schools, libraries, and other public institutions obtain adequate telecommunications and computing resources. Because the NII Band would be open to all manufacturers (rather than being controlled by a single licensee or network owner), it would create a host of opportunities for public-private collaboration and would limit a public institution's dependency on any single provider. A study released several weeks ago by the Rural Policy Research Institute provides a rare glimpse into the telecommunications needs of rural communities, and confirms many of the basic premises underlying Apple's Petition -- in particular, Apple's emphasis on the importance of creating technologies that are available without geographic limitation, and on using "community networks" to link residents of rural communities to each other and to the broader information infrastructure. The study's findings include the following:

* The "liability of geographic isolation," which historically has plagued rural areas, still exists but is being overcome by citizens and businesses actively applying new technology. However, "rural areas and small communities [will] fall farther and farther behind urban areas in terms of economic growth and quality of life if telecommunications technology is not fully accessible and utilized.

(End of excerpt)

The passages from the Apple RM-8653 petition which are listed above clearly demonstrate Mr. Lovette's empathy for citizens living in rural America. I gladly lend my voice in his support.

Respectfully submitted,


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